United Nations A/70/756–S/2016/175

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 February 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (a)
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 22 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the parliaments of foreign States, international organizations and parliamentary assemblies condemning the continuing aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which was adopted on 18 February 2016 (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-02919 (E) 290216

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 22 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the parliaments of foreign States, international organizations and parliamentary assemblies condemning the continuing aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

Underscoring the respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965, the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of 1975, the Strasbourg Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 1995 and General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine",

Noting that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, maintenance of international peace and security and development of friendly and equal relations between States are the foundation of international relations and international law,

Stressing that respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms and protection of the rights of its citizens is a fundamental responsibility of every State, and that abuse of those principles is unacceptable and must be unanimously condemned by the international community,

Strongly condemning the continuing military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which began on 20 February 2014 in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol with the forcible seizure of Ukrainian territory by divisions of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, the organization and holding of the illegal "referendum", and the artificial creation of illegal local State authorities controlled by the Kremlin,

Stressing the fact that Ukraine respects international law and respects human rights and freedoms,

Expressing serious concern over the systematic, deliberate and massive violations committed by the Russian occupation authorities against human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rights of indigenous peoples in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions,

Condemning the political and nationally motivated persecution and harassment of the civil, political, social and economic rights of citizens of Ukraine in the temporarily occupied territories,

Emphasizing the unacceptability of the abrogation of property, linguistic, religious and other rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples of Ukraine, in particular the Crimean Tatars,

Condemning the occupation policy of the Russian authorities with respect to the illegal confiscation of Ukraine's State property and the private property of citizens of Ukraine who reside in the temporarily occupied territories,

Stressing the criminal and non-humane actions of the Russian occupation Government that implements a policy of total terror against dissidents and ethnic and religious communities, both in Russia and in the occupied territories of Ukraine,

Being aware of the threat of the increasing authoritarianism and dictatorship within the Russian Federation, the danger of the greater development of a policy of aggression and terror by that country against the Ukrainian State and its people, and against peace and security in the region and in the world,

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Demands that the Russian Federation immediately cease the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and also of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

Calls on the Russian Federation to cease the continuing practice of abductions, illegal arrests and imprisonment of citizens of Ukraine, to terminate the ban on the entry of representatives of the Crimean Tatar people into the Crimean peninsula and to cease violations of freedom of speech and media and restrictions on freedom of religion and peaceful assembly;

Calls on the Russian Federation to cease actions that directly or indirectly finance illegal armed groups in its territory and in the territory of Ukraine, sending military equipment and weapons, organizing logistics, training and financing of terrorists, and to fully implement the requirements of General Assembly resolution 68/262 entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", the terms of the Minsk agreements and the Package of Measures for their implementation of 12 February 2015;

Appeals to the international community to condemn the violent actions of the Russian Federation against the territory of Ukraine and to exert greater political and diplomatic pressure on the Russian occupation authorities to restore the jurisdiction of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

Calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release political prisoners and the residents of Crimea, and to implement the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights to ensure and facilitate the unrestricted access of international missions and international human rights organizations to the territory of the Crimean Peninsula for the purpose of continuous monitoring and surveillance of the area in order to ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;

Calls on the international community to continue to exert pressure on the Russian Federation as a country that blatantly violates the Charter of the United Nations, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum) of 5 December 1994, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of 1 August 1975 and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 1999, until Russia complies with the international legal framework;

Welcomes the European Parliament resolution, adopted on 4 February 2016, which strongly condemns the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, and points to the unprecedented critical situation of human rights in the peninsula, the systematic attacks by the Russian occupation authorities on the fundamental rights and freedoms of all who disagree with its policies, primarily Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, including the suppression of any manifestations of democracy and freedom in the Crimea, including the termination of functioning free media;

Supports the position of the European Parliament on the necessity of launching an international negotiation mechanism to restore Ukrainian sovereignty by the de-occupation of the Autonomic Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in the "Geneva Plus" format, with the direct involvement of the institutions of the European Union in the process.